

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 178

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Mr. Rhea V. Taylor, III
upon receiving the Fayette County Chamber of
Commerce 2005 Citizen of the Year Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those
native Tennessee citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished
themselves as leaders in the professional field; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Mayor Rhea V. Taylor, III, who recently
received the 2005 Citizen of the Year Award presented by the Fayette County Chamber of
Commerce; and

WHEREAS, born in Bolivar, Tennessee, Mayor Taylor was raised on the family farm,
Sylvan Ridge, in Fayette County, which he started farming at the young age of sixteen; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Taylor graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1982
with a degree in Plant Science, which helped him to continue managing the family farm on the
weekends and on school breaks. He was a distinguished member of the Fayette County Farm
Bureau's Young Farmers Association and helped for several years with their annual Farm
Equipment Auction; and

WHEREAS, as a life-long resident of Fayette County, Mayor Taylor frequents various
community landmarks, one of which is Joyner's Campground. This campground holds many
pleasant memories stretching as far back as childhood and is where this fun-loving man
eventually proposed to his wife in July of 1982; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Mayor Rhea V. Taylor, III joined in the most blessed union of
marriage with the lovely Phyllis Waggoner, and they are the proud parents of twin daughters,
Jennifer and Jacquelyn, and son, Rhea Taylor; and

WHEREAS, this devoted family man is thankful for the love and companionship he shares with his brothers, Timothy and David, and with his mother, Jan Cloud; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable man is a loyal member of the First United Methodist Church in Somerville, and he has served with merit on the Administrative Board and the Council on Ministries. Mayor Taylor has given of his time and talents in numerous volunteer programs throughout the church, including having taught a fourth and fifth grade Sunday School class and participating as a member of the Stone Soup Sunday School class; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Taylor is known as a quiet man but one who will roll up his sleeves and tackle any job if it will help the people of Fayette County. Showing an active interest in his county, Mr. Taylor began attending Board of Education and County Commission meetings, which ultimately lead to his running for and winning the District 2 County Commission Seat in 1994; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his County Commission seat, this ambitious and active man served on numerous community boards, including the Fayette County Co-Op Board, the Economic Community Enterprise Zone Board (ECEZ), the Agricultural Extension Service Board, and the County Board of Appeals. Mayor Taylor's work on the ECEZ Board was instrumental in helping some Fayette County communities begin pre-school programs, volunteer fire stations, and community centers. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Methodist Healthcare for Fayette Hospital; and

WHEREAS, following these tremendous responsibilities, Mr. Taylor now leads with distinction as the Vice-Chair of Homeland Security Council District 11, which serves Shelby, Fayette, Tipton, Lauderdale, and Desoto counties; Treasurer of Delta Human Resource Agency Board; Vice-Chair of Memphis Area Association of Governments; and the Mid-South Commission on Aging Board serving Shelby, Fayette, Tipton, and Lauderdale counties; and

WHEREAS, under Mayor Taylor's expert leadership and guidance during his commendable two-term service as County Commissioner and his successful run for the County Mayor's seat in 2002, this man has been instrumental in getting the Fayette County 1101 Growth Plan approved, having Fayette County selected as a Three Star Pilot county, moving Fayette County forward with a Justice Complex, planning for growth, instituting a county fire

system, working with schools, recruiting industries like CoilMaster, and helping facilitate the expansion of Medegen Medical Products in Gallaway; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Taylor's graduated from the West Star Leadership Program in 2004 and is a loyal member of the Somerville Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mayor Rhea Taylor for his dedication to the betterment of Fayette County and to make clear to him how proud we are to call such an extraordinary man a fellow Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Mayor Rhea V. Taylor, III on being chosen as the 2005 Citizen of the Year by the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce, saluting his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, and extending to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.